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Simpson rejects Goldman's offer

Victim's father offered to forfeit millions for a written confession from Simpson.

But if he wanted to sign a confession with all the details of his crime and broadcast it all over the country and publish it all over the nation, I would drop the judgment."



Simpson

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Simpson rejected a challenge from Fred Goldman on Wednesday that would have allowed the football great to avoid millions in damages if he signed a confession admitting he is a killer.

The aggrieved father, who never accepted Simpson's murder acquittal and doggedly pursued him to civil court, added: "All I ever wanted is justice. It's never been an issue about money."

Goldman had acknowledged the chance of Simpson taking him up on the offer was slim to none.

"Easy to say, easy to do, never going to happen," Goldman predicted when he first revealed the offer Tuesday on the Dallas-based Salem Radio

Network. "This person hasn't owned responsibility for any of his actions through his lifetime."

Alan Dershowitz, who was on Simpson's defense team at his murder trial, said he was not surprised the offer was rejected. "He will go to his grave maintaining his innocence adamantly."

Simpson swore on the witness stand it was "absolutely untrue" that he slashed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman to death on June 12, 1994.

But a civil jury that did not believe him found him liable for the deaths and socked him with compensatory and punitive damages totaling \$33.5 million — more than double what even his accusers predicted he could ever pay.

Goldman stands to collect at least half of \$8.5 million in compensatory damages and \$12.5 million in punitive damages. He has to split both

with his ex-wife, Sharon Rufo. Ms. Simpson's estate, whose beneficiaries are the two children she had with Simpson, gets \$12.5 million in punitive damages.

Goldman's attorney, Daniel Petrocelli, backed his client on the offer, even if it meant he would have to give up his contingency fee if Simpson accepted.

"I think Fred is right on target," Petrocelli said. "We'd be more than happy to rip up the judgment if Mr. Simpson wants to sign a confession saying he committed these murders and giving details of how he did it."

"It would also do a great deal to heal the wounds in this country if we could put this to rest."

Rufo's attorney, Michael Brewer, said he supported Goldman's desire to have Simpson claim responsibility.

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Committee adds roll-call criteria

By LAURA OLIVEIRA
THE BATTALION

New criteria have been added to be eligible for Texas A&M Campus Muster roll call.

The Muster Committee added two criteria, which will be in effect at the event on April 21, to accommodate more Aggies.

Ann Leslie, roll call and family sub-chair and a sophomore agricultural development major, said in years past, family members of deceased Aggies who did not meet the criteria have requested their names be called at Campus Muster.

The committee wants to alleviate confusion by publicizing the criteria, Leslie said.

"We do not want anyone's feelings to get hurt," she said.

Leigh Jones, Muster Awareness sub-chair and a junior marketing major, said publicizing the criteria will help people understand why names are included in the specific ceremonies.

"It is such a big ceremony and a lot of people have questions like, 'Why does that person get called here and that person in Dallas?'" Jones said. "It should comfort them (families) that their [loved one's] name will be called somewhere, which is the important thing about Muster."

MUSTER Criteria for roll-call

The deceased must meet one of the following guidelines:

1. Currently enrolled student
2. Former student who was residing in Brazos County
3. 50-year class reunion members
4. Former student whose immediate family lives in B-CS area
5. Former student whose immediate family member is a currently enrolled student

Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Campus Muster, held in G. Rolie White Coliseum, allows for about 120 names to be called during the ceremony. The new criteria will not increase this number, but will allow for Aggies whose names previously would not have been called at Campus Muster to be included in the roll call.

The candlelight service honors former students who have died in the past year. About 7,000 people attend the Muster ceremony on campus each year.

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Ryan Rogers, THE BATTALION

Flower Power

Tara Boston, a senior industrial distribution major, arranges roses in a vase for the Valentine's Day festivities at AggieLand Flowers Wednesday afternoon.

Businesses adjust for Valentine's Day

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION



James Vineyard, THE BATTALION

Friday is Valentine's Day and restaurants and florists have been gearing up for the holiday all week.

Don Lewis, owner of Baskets on the Brazos and Popabilities, said he has extended business hours and asked all employees to work overtime.

"We know this is the single busiest day of the year for us," Lewis said. "And we prepared for it by renting extra space."

Lewis said his businesses will make at least 500 deliveries on Valentine's Day and have between six and 10 vans running at all times for the occasion. The various Valentine gifts will be delivered by men in tuxedos.

Baskets on the Brazos's most popular gift is already sold out, Lewis said.

"The Budweiser 'I love you man' 6-pack bouquet and balloons went fast," he said.

Other florists are also experiencing a holiday rush this week.

Meher Rahman, owner of Flowerama in Post Oak Mall, said she expects to be sold out of roses by Friday.

"The specialty of the flower business is that nothing is prearranged," she said. "All flower arrangements are done at the last minute so they are fresh."

Bryan-College Station restaurants are also anticipating a busy day.

Tina Parish, sales manager for the Olive Garden, said many people will be dining out on the famously romantic holiday.

Alpha Phi Alpha

Student crowned Miss Black & Gold

By JOE JEANETTE SCHLUETER
THE BATTALION

Tainisha Nicole Butler was crowned Miss Black & Gold of Texas A&M by the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity on Feb. 1.

This was the first pageant Butler had competed in. The junior civil engineering major said she was shocked when she was announced as the winner.

"Before they announced the winner, I told myself that no matter what, I did my best," she said.

Butler said her father jumped out of his seat when she was announced the winner because he was so happy.

Sean Williams, president of Alpha Phi Alpha and a senior political science major, said he is excited for Butler.

"She is an outstanding woman who represents the beauty and character of black womanhood," Williams said.

Pageant contestants were judged on character, beauty and poise.

In the interview portion of the pageant, Butler quoted a scripture from the Bible and focused on shattering myths about black people.

"Being black is something I am proud of," she said, "and my speech came easy because it is what I feel deep inside."

In her interview, Butler was asked what changes she would make if she were president of A&M for a day and why.

"I would try to change the face of Texas A&M to have more multicultural attitudes," she said.

Butler, who is 21 years old, said

she has known about the pageant for a long time, but she never considered giving it a try until this year.

"The pageant is a big deal around campus and in the black community," she said.

Butler said, among other role models, Harriet Tubman has always inspired her.

"I admire Tubman because of her strength and focus on becoming free," she said. "I want to incorporate her strength in my everyday life."

Butler said college has been a good experience for her and that

high school prepared her well for it. She was National Honor Society president in high school and was involved in drama.

Butler received a \$1000 scholarship with her victory and will compete at the state-level Black & Gold pageant in Fort Worth on Feb. 28. The state winner will go on to compete at the regional level. The next step would be the national pageant.

Williams said the majority of male members of Alpha Phi Alpha will escort Butler to the state conference and pageant to wait on her hand and foot.

Butler's duties as Miss Black & Gold include representing the A&M chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and hosting the Black Women's Conference and Retreat.



Butler

THE BATTALION INSIDETODAY



PLAYTIME: Students recall the toys they loved — and hated — as children.

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Architecture students design theater sets

By REBECCA TORRELLAS
THE BATTALION

Architecture students in third-year design studio constructed the sets for 'magination Station's production of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and will showcase their work Friday when the show opens.

Eighteen students in Mardelle Shepley's architecture design class planned and built two houses and a two-sided set which rotates to serve as both a jail and a courtroom in the play.

The set took a week to design and a weekend to construct.

Claire Shell, vice president of productions for 'magination Station, said the sets are some of the most complex the theater company has presented in over ten years.

"Mardelle Shepley wanted her students to work in a real-life situ-

ation and thought this would be a great opportunity," Shell said.

Shell said it was an ideal match because the production needed a big set and 'magination Station would not have been able to get enough volunteers to build it.

The students were given a budget of \$150 out of the \$250 the theater had reserved for the whole production and were able to stay within their limit.

The students combed the Bryan-College Station community for materials for the set, including old lumber for the run-down

houses in the play.

Shepley said the project will be beneficial to the students.

"In design classes you don't often get to construct things," Shepley said. "Some used power saws for the first time."

Shepley thought it would also help her students to parallel arts and architecture, as well as real-life experiences with clients.

Tom Woodfin, an associate professor of landscape architecture, is playing the defense attorney, Atticus, in the production "The set gives out a few hours of

illusion, which is different from the usual, permanent architecture," Woodfin said. "It evokes fantasy."

Twelve-year old Chris Miller, who will be playing Atticus' daughter Jem, said the architecture students did a wonderful job.

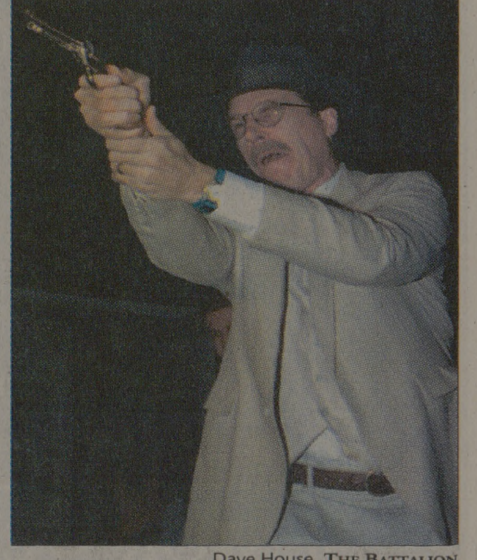
"It wouldn't have been as good without their help," Miller said.

The eighteen design students also created their own T-shirt logos for the theater, which will be voted on by the audience during performances.

The shirt with the winning design will be sold to the public during 'magination Station's production of 'Camelot' in April.

Shell said she is pleased with the way the set turned out and hopes the students will volunteer to work on future productions.

"We'd love to have them again," Shell said.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Tom Woodfin, a landscape architecture associate professor, plays Atticus Finch in 'magination Station's production of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'